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Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS-503

Captain Lebbeus Curtis II Papers

Inclusive dates 1861-1878
Bulk date – 1871

by
Tracy Lamaestra (edited by Anastasia Weigle)
February 2012

Shelf feet: .25
Number of boxes: 1
Accession 77.129.7

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Abstract

Curtis, Lebbeus, II, *Captain* (b 1816-d 1880)

Papers, 1861-1878 (Bulk date: 1871)

1 Box

Ship captain from Searsport, Maine.

Vessel papers of Captain Lebbeus Curtis II, master of the vessels *R. P. Buck* (Bark), *William Butman* (Schooner), *Robert Porter* (Bark), *Pearl* (Schooner) and *Hope* (Ship). Included are invoices, receipts, crewmen wages, cargo list and personal receipts. Papers are organized into three series: Series I. *R. P. Buck* (Bark), Series II. Other vessel related papers, and Series III. Personal papers.

Dealer Dan Fortin exchange, December 1977.

MS-503, Accession No. 77.129.7

Finding aid in repository; folder level control.

Added Entries—persons

Curtis, Lebbeus, II, *Captain*

Curtis, Libbeus, II, *Captain* (Alternate spelling)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels)

Hope (Ship)

Pearl (Schooner)

R. P. Buck (Bark)

Robert Porter (Bark)

William Butman (Schooner)

Added entries—key terms

Crew lists

Ship captains

Shipping

Ships—Cargo

Wages

Acquisition

The Maine Maritime Museum acquired the papers of Captain Lebbeus Curtis II. from dealer Dan Fortin in December 1977, acc. 77.129.7, in exchange for non-Maine material.

Provenance

The Captain Lebbeus Curtis II Papers (acc.77.129.7) were originally contained with the Capt. Ansel Alfonso Auspland Papers, acc. no. 77.129.8. They were removed and reassigned a new manuscript number: MS-503. Please see MS-501, Auspland Papers for provenance.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research.

Physical Condition

The majority of the papers are in fairly good condition. Most papers are soiled, have creases, and minor tears. Fragile documents were sleeve. The papers should be handled with care.

Biographical Notes

Lebbeus Curtis II was born in Searsport on April 7, 1816 to Lebbeus and Betsy Tibbets. He married Jane Porter of Yarmouth, Maine on June 19, 1841. They had several children: Francis Asbury (born October 12, 1842), Lebbeus III, Eben E., Jane, Joseph Porter and Laura Rich. Captain Curtis was master of the *R. P. Buck* (Bark) as well as the *Centurion* (Schooner), *Viator* (Brig), *Solomon Piper* (Bark), *John Wesley* (Brig), *Edward D. Peters* (Ship), *Robert Porter* (Bark) and *Hope* (Ship). He sailed through the Straits of Le Maire in 1847 bound for California. He left Searsport on March 20, 1850 for 148 days to seek gold in California. Captain Curtis II died on January 1, 1880 in Searsport, Maine.

Reference

1. Black, Frederick Frasier, compiler. *Searsport Sea Captains.* Searsport, Maine: Penobscot Marine Museum, 1960.

Scope and Content Notes

The Captain Lebbeus Curtis II papers consist of a single box of papers primarily for the vessel *R. P. Buck* (Bark). The majority of the documents dated 1871 and are for two separate

voyages—one to Liverpool (Jan-March 1871) and Glasglow (from Montreal, Oct.-Nov. 1871). There are also two lists of crewmen wages and a list of cargo disbursements.

There are also four separate receipts, each representing a different vessel. They are schooner *Wm. Butman*, bark *Robert Porter*, schooner *Pearl* and ship *Hope*. The last receipt is for the ship *Hope* for wages paid to Chas. W. Koyero at Chenebon, Java dated Sept. 20, 1878.

There are two receipts that seem to be of a personal nature. One receipt dated June 22, 1864 is for the purchase of furniture. These could be for a vessel but there is no vessel name attached to this receipt. The other receipt is for medical services for what appears to be for his two daughters, Jane and Laura.

Processing Notes

The papers were already loosely organized. The arrangement of the manuscripts follows a standardized sequence to simplify access.

Description of Series

Series I. *R. P. Buck* (Bark) Accounts for voyage to Liverpool and Glasgow, cargo list and crewmen wages all dated 1871.
Series II. Other vessel related papers. Receipts for the schooner *Wm. Butman* (1861), the bark *Robert Porter* (1865), the schooner *Pearl* (1868) and the ship *Hope* (1878)
Series III. Personal papers. Two personal receipts dated 1864 and 1870.

Captain Lebbeus CurtisII Papers Container List

Box#	Folder#	
Series I. *R. P. Buck* (Bark)		
1	1	Ownership, earnings receipt, 1864
		Accounts, general
	2	Liverpool (ENG), Jan.-March 1881
	3	Cape Race (NFL)-Glasgow (SCT), Oct.-Nov. 1881
	4	Freight lists, Oct.-Nov. [1871]
	5	Crew wages, 1871
Series II. Other vessel related papers		
	6	Receipts for *William Butman* (Schooner), *Robert Porter* (Bark), *Pearl* (Schooner) and *Hope* (Ship), 1861-1878
Series III. Personal papers		
	7	Receipts, 1864 and 1870